California GARDEN

Summer 1960
50 cents

San Diego's Garden Magazine 51st Year

Spring in Spring Valley—Contest Time page 6

Cycads page 10

Tropical Paradise on a City Lot page 18

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CALIFORNIA GARDEN

Why a LOCAL Garden Magazine?

BECAUSE "florally, San Diego is a law unto itself," words as true today as when they appeared in the first issue of CALIFORNIA GARDEN 51 years ago next month.

BECAUSE we present local authorities on local subjects. The writers of most of the articles you read here are no more than a phone call away. If you need more information, if you want to dispute their statements, or merely to say thank you, you'll find them ready and able to inform, dispute, or accept graciously. What you read in these pages pertains to *your* garden, because it is information from other gardeners who have struggled like yourself with the sun, the soil, the water, of San Diego County.

BECAUSE we like simple language. Every trade has its jargon, and the jargon of gardeners can be as baffling as any. CALIFORNIA GARDEN pledges itself to speak in plain language, and to translate where necessary into words which communicate, illuminate, and clarify.

BECAUSE of Balboa Park. CALIFORNIA GARDEN is in no sense an official organ of the Park, but it looks upon those 1400 acres with a proprietary air, and hopes that the feeling is mutual. For 50 years the names appearing on this masthead have appeared just as frequently in the records of park development in San Diego.

BECAUSE we are interested in you. Many of the articles and ideas presented in this magazine are the result of suggestions from our readers. If you have tongue or pen, we'd like to hear from *you*.

Among our subscribers are individuals, government institutions, schools and colleges in such diverse settings as Fiji and Ashkhabad, but our ambitions are local. We think there is a place in San Diego for an aggressive, growing garden magazine. We hope you will agree, and agreeing, subscribe!

* * *

Impertinent Question No. 1

What has become of the City policy which limited monuments in our parks to discreet bronze tablets at or near ground level? The "massive five-foot granite shaft" unveiled last January in Presidio Park should be the last such memorial unless we want our parks to look like old-fashioned graveyards.

* * *

Overheard at the Ikebana and Bonsai Show in the vicinity of the variegated *Cryptomeria*: "It's simple — they just sprinkle a little Clorox on the leaves."

* * *

Friends of Hugh Evans, eminent horticulturist of Los Angeles, will be pleased with the report that he is showing his usual interest in horticulture again after a lengthy illness.

* * *

Television personality Charlie Dibb conducted one of his "patio chats" in person and on his own patio last April for eighteen members of the Garden Section of El Centro's Women's 10,000 Club who visited San Diego to admire Mr. and Mrs. Dibb's lath-house and garden.

* * *

Impertinent Question No. 2

Just for the sake of variety, don't you suppose the local landscape companies could come up with an "oriental" design more imaginative than the inevitable two-tone mound rising like an island from a sea of gravel and topped by a single symbolic pine which symbolizes nothing?

* * *

The publishers and staff of CALIFORNIA GARDEN are considering putting out six issues of the magazine next year instead of four. If this idea strikes a spark in your heart, or even creates a lukewarm glow, will you let us know? Your vote will count!

* * *

This magazine now has editorial offices in the Floral Building, Balboa Park, instead of wherever the editor happened to hang his hat. Part of the front porch has been enclosed with the gracious cooperation of the Public Works Department and the Floral Association, and best of all, a big window provided giving us a view of jacarandas, acacias and magnolias, and my favorite Ginkgo tree at the corner of the House of Pacific Relations' garden. Office hours: M-W-F, 10-3. Phone BE 2-5762. We'll answer.

Sincerely,

George A. La Pointe

SUMMER, 1960 VOL. 51, No. 2

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California Garden

FIFTY-FIRST YEAR SUMMER, 1960 VOL. 51, NO. 2

14 years later, a second chance at

10,000 LIVE OAKS

Condensed from CALIFORNIA GARDEN, Spring, 1946, and reprinted by request.

Roland S. Hoyt

MAN needs trees. Through the ages he has sought their sure protection and companionship. An "atomic age" will not dispense with this principle; rather, it will bring into fuller relief an essential requirement, a return to an understanding and harmony with nature in view of an increasing artificiality.

San Diego, city and county, lacks trees. This has been said many times and with reason. What do we do about it?

A population reaches maturity, as does a tree. Its collective thinking passes through stages involving economic problems of subsistence leading up to more leisure, and, ultimately, some appreciation of the esthetic. Along with art museums and civic planning, the community may well consider the overall of its tree population, reviewing its particular interest in the kind of living it has, and will have, to offer. The early settlers here undoubtedly missed trees, and the stranger coming in today is more than likely to express in some way or other his awareness of a condition that still obtains. We really haven't done very much about it.

More often than not, cities have developed in the midst of trees. Frequently, a community has had one outstanding species which has given it a special character, a legendary or inspirational core, so to speak, about which gardens have been built, and beneath which people have lived graciously. We have no such thing. Seattle has its particular Maple, the South its Spanish Oak, New England its spreading Elms, while some of us remember Live Oaks when we think of beautiful Pasadena . . . and there's a thought for us.

The Coast Live Oak might be adopted here as a main tree motif. It is a courteous tree, a true burgher of the soil. It lives and allows to live, which means that one may garden beneath it. Moreover, in age it develops a picturesque aspect, dramatic in mass, yet settled in feeling and pliable in association with the domestic picture.

SUGGESTING that large Oaks from small acorns grow is a way of saying that the most practical way to start and establish them in these shallow soils is as nature does, with the acorn. In germinating, the young root taps, or takes a horizontal course as required by hardpan, immediately searching the available ground for its future. It may extend as much as three feet in length while the top makes no more than three inches, knowing full well that in an arid country it must get to moisture quickly if it is to provide the wherewithal later for a sound, continuing topgrowth.

Theodore Payne, veteran plantsman of Los Angeles, reports Live Oaks in Glendale reaching an average of fourteen inches in diameter from acorns in fourteen years. What does that mean? Simply that we would have comparable trees here if something had been done about it fourteen years ago. Carry the thought through. If we do something now, the next fourteen years should see something pleasant happen to the face of San Diego, with an uplift for the people which would be profitable in most of the meanings that have been given to the word.

The Chamber of Commerce will know the worth of an ascending, widening, protecting net of 10,000 Live Oaks. The physical and spiritual aspect of the city would be completely transformed.

HOW is it to come about, a tenuous, flimsy, impractical idea such as this? One way would involve education and the schools. What would be more natural or effective than school children carrying acorns home to plant on Arbor Day. And what could be more desirable than little children watching a tree of their own growing?

If such a project were begun at the proper time of year, germination would be high. If the primary aim is dissemination, this should do it. It is true, many would be lost. But even the "mean little kid" testing his aim on a telephone pole would be following nature's pattern and purpose. The missile might very well find lodgement somewhere and grow. Many seedlings would find themselves in wrong places and be pulled or cut as weeds, but a very small part of a grain-sack of acorns would mean many trees in proper spots.

The program might be repeated after a few years or at planned intervals. Childless people might call at school buildings for the seed. The educative aspect might be played up to the benefit of the entire horticultural future of the community and the planting psychology furthered for a generation. This is only to suggest the mechanics.

Providence will help, but the initiative lies with you . . . and I mean YOU. What are you going to do about it?

SWEEPSTAKES WINNER for Best Overall Landscaping: perfect grooming of paths and lawn, roses and hibiscus along the fence, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dale C. Tennis.

Spring in Spring Valley: Contest Time

Photographs by George Lyons

IF, AS ONE local title company would have us believe, real estate in San Diego County is the blue chip investment, it follows that the best way to insure that investment is to landscape it. Judging from the pictures on these pages and on the cover, gilding the blue chip is a favorite activity among residents of Spring Valley Estates, but it took Spring 1960, and a Garden Contest, to bring that fact into wide public view.

This community of nearly 1500 homes (soon to be 2200) lies in rolling foothill country east of Lemon Grove. Northward along Sweetwater Road is the handsome Mt. Miguel High School.

Garden contests are not particularly new, nor are mammoth real estate developments. What is refreshing and new about the recently completed contest in Spring Valley is the combination of garden contest with real estate developer as sponsor, the first time this has happened in San Diego County.

The contest was announced early in February for the purpose of promoting interest in landscaping, gardening, and community beautification. Before entries closed on April 15, more than 270 of the eligible homeowners in the subdivision had entered. The lure was $1000 in prizes.

Inspection of the winning entries will please all advocates of virtue-rewarded: these prize-winning projects were started long before the contest was announced. Most of the winners have been living in Spring Valley Estates homes for eighteen months, and have been improving their properties from the day they moved in.

A recent article in the home section of the Sunday UNION pointed out the possibility of turning a $3000 investment in home improvements into a $7000 increase in property value. The particular example cited included far more than landscaping — a swimming pool, block walls, elaborate fences —but the principle, if not the dollar value, holds good in all cases (as the UNION writer went on to point out). Every dollar's worth of plants and effort multiplies in value for the homeowner. Conversely, the neglected garden, no matter how expensive the house, will subtract materially from a home's value. Even a blue chip investment can deteriorate.

This year, Spring in Spring Valley brought forth the competitive instinct along with the new season's growth. Those homeowners who had started early with their spading and building were the winners. And they would be the first to tell you that it isn't only prizes that they won—it's a better setting for their home and family, and a better, more valuable piece of San Diego County land.

JUDGES

Miss Carolyn S. Murray, west coast editor of HOUSE BEAUTIFUL magazine. Clyde V. Smith, real estate and building editor of the San Diego UNION. Edward W. Campbell, A.I.L.A., Coronado.

BEST BACKYARD: outdoor dining area with barbecue, children's play area in background out of the picture, at the home of Lt. and Mrs. Thomas M. Volatile.

WINNERS

Best Over-all Landscaping: (shown on opposite page) Mr. and Mrs. Dale C. Tennis, 9017 Orville St., Spring Valley. The judges commented that the Tennis home showed "a refined landscaping design, using only a few materials. Cooperation of neighbors in keeping well-groomed, uniform front lawns added to pleasing effect." In their front yard Mr. and Mrs. Tennis have used hardy, compatible plants —holly, pyracantha, and philodendron for a lush touch — to accent the unbroken sweep of lawn. Mrs. Tennis perhaps disclosed the key to their success when she remarked, "We enjoy working in the garden — we don't consider it work." Their reward: a $600 color television set.

Best Front Yard Landscaping: (not shown) Mr. and Mrs. Walter C. King, 920 Parkbrook St., Spring Valley. A low-maintenance garden won the prize for the Kings. Gravel, varying in color and texture, is the main ingredient, with a slightly-raised oval mound as the center of interest. Discreet use of rocks on this mound allows the well-chosen, well-spaced plants — festuca glauca, New Zealand flax, bird of paradise, natal plum, dwarf palm — to capture the major share of attention. This is a young garden which will increase in effectiveness as plants mature. The judges called this a "refined" garden, and cited it for the excellent use of gravel. The Kings' prize: $100 merchandise certificate.

Best Backyard Treatment: (shown on this page) Lt. and Mrs. Thomas M. Volatile, 8758 Kelso St., Spring Valley. Six months in which they devoted every spare moment to the project have produced a striking and well-designed outdoor living area for the Volatile family. Lt. (jg) Herman L. Zeller, a graduate in ornamental horticulture of California State Polytechnic, helped in planning and execution. The extensive areas of raised flower beds have been filled with a mixture of top soil, peat moss, sand and gravel. "Now," says Mrs. Volatile, "we have to get to work on the front." The judges awarded the Volatiles a $100 merchandise certificate for their creation of "a good backyard and outdoor living environment."

Most Unusual Landscaping: (not shown) Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Canaris, 1118 Stoneridge Dr., Spring Valley. In their front yard Mr. and Mrs. Canaris have achieved a difficult feat: a successful blending of desert and tropics. In a sweeping graveled triangle they "planted" a gaunt, leafless tree trunk with striking effect. A second triangle, inside the large one, is paved with white quartz, and features a lamp post around which are planted aloe, agave, and cactus. Low-growing junipers will cover the remainder of the yard except for the strip of dichondra creating the transition to tropicals — philodendron, umbrella plant, fatshedera — growing next to the house. The judges particularly admired the use of the tree form and the excellent use of materials. Prize: $100 merchandise certificate.

Best Flower Bed: (not shown) Mr. and Mrs. Egan N. Danielson, 829 Elkelton Blvd., Spring Valley. With the instincts of flower-show exhibitors, the Danielsons brought their bed of pink and red petunias through the months from the first preparation of the soil to a peak of perfection during the one week which counted (at least in this contest), April 15-23. "Good spacing of plants," said the judges; "an excellent use of petunias." One-hundred dollars worth of excellence for the Danielsons.

In addition to the categories announced for competition, the judges created two "special awards" for excellence in a particular feature:

Best-Groomed Garden: (not shown) Mr. and Mrs. Verne N. Miller, 1308 Darby St., Spring Valley. In another low-maintenance front garden, the Millers have massed plants around small boulders, using natal plum for bright-leaved greenery, and New Zealand flax and twisted juniper for vertical accents. Soft grey mounds of festuca, and seasonal flowers (at present, petunia, vinca, gladiolus) add color. "Grooming and care indicate a love of plants," the judges commented. The Millers received a $25 merchandise certificate.

Unusually Fine use of Water, Shade and Plant Materials: (see cover) Mr. and Mrs. Gordon A. Cauley, Jr., 8760 Hiel St., Spring Valley. During a tour of duty in Japan, Mr. Cauley vowed that if he ever had a chance to create his own garden, he would find a place in it for water. The minimum fish pond he envisioned at the start grew during the digging into the generous pool shown in the photograph. Here he has space enough for fish, water-lilies, and waterfall. Undemanding plants—pampas grass, papyrus, succulents on the mound—and gravel ground cover will allow time this summer for the Cauleys to sit on their covered, night-lighted terrace and enjoy the sound of flowing water which so impressed the judges. Their prize: $25 merchandise certificate.

A French Author Recalls . . .

A Garden in California

by Jean Lambert

Translated by Dr. Elizabeth McPike Brown

Translator's Note: Jean Lambert first visited San Diego in 1958 as a guest lecturer for the *Alliance Francaise*. The following year, he returned as visiting professor of French and French Literature during the Spring semester and Summer session at San Diego State College. Educated in Paris, he has traveled throughout Europe and North America, and has recently completed a volume of impressions of his latest trip through the United States, Mexico, and Canada. His works include collections of essays, literary criticism, short stories, and a volume of personal memories of André Gide, his father-in-law. Next Fall he will teach at Smith College.

BEFORE allowing myself to write for a magazine such as CALIFORNIA GARDEN, I should really wait until the month of August. Then I will know how the corn which I bought last summer near the Mission San Luis Rey has fared in a garden of central France. Thus far, my intercontinental experiments in gardening have been limited to the use of metal disks to drive the birds away from seedling plants. These were given to me in New England, and they seem efficacious even for European birds, who marvel from a distance at this foreign innovation, all the while swearing at it.

Speaking of seeds, I have not had much luck with those I bought at Monticello, in memory of Jefferson, nor with those from the marvelous Butchart Gardens in Victoria, British Columbia. If the Fire Chief petunias have disappointed me, the fault is doubtless mine. On the other hand, the nasturtiums brought back from those same gardens have astounded me, for I thought I had chosen a dwarf variety. Never have I seen such long streamers. I have had to behead them repeatedly to keep them from overrunning the place. Had I planted them on the sills of the attic windows they would have blanketed the house. This nasturtium, I suppose, is the same variety that produces those extraordinary clusters in the courtyard of the Gardner Museum in Boston.

The memory of that courtyard, always so marvelously colorful, reminds me of all the beautiful gardens I saw in America; from those at The Cloisters in New York, to those at San Juan Capistrano, from the Sunken Gardens at St. Petersburg to the gardens along the ocean at Monterey and Laguna Beach. But I shall control myself, and limit these comments to California, and more specifically, as befits the case, to San Diego.

My first vivid recollection of San Diego is the view from the top of El Cortez, looking out over Balboa Park. This surely is the view shown to all visitors, like Paris from the Eiffel Tower, New York from the Empire State building, or San Francisco from the "Top of the Mark." Today, I think back to this first contact with the city and to all that was added later. How well I came to know that wide stretch of freeway winding between slopes covered with trees and flowers. I knew on which hill one could catch a glimpse of deer in the Zoo, and after which final curve the fairyland of this sumptuous vegetation would yield, alas, to the buildings and confusion of the city.

If, on that very first visit, I marveled at all the buildings in the Park —the Museums, the Organ Pavilion, the Bowl, all the delightful remnants of an Exposition which had displayed exceptional taste—I was trying to absorb everything at once, for I did not know then that I should have the opportunity one year later to wander at leisure along these paths, as long and as often as I pleased.

Today, far from the Pacific, I can sketch from memory the paths in the Park, the water lily pond, the Globe Theater under the eucalyptus trees, the bowling greens, and, I must not forget, a curious little natural amphitheater where, if one can believe old postcards, visitors to the Exposition could enjoy, without taking part in them, the delights of a nudist colony! The day I saw it, it was more innocently peopled by a group of children giving a performance of *The Bluebird*. In spite of advice to the contrary, I have even wandered through the park at night, though I noted that few people availed themselves of this pleasure. Yet, on moonlit nights, the high tower emerging from the palms, the eucalyptus, and the pepper trees offers a glimpse into purest fantasy.

If I had had the gift of double sight, I should have been astounded that first day, to see myself from the top of El Cortez, cutting the grass in a garden in La Mesa. And, now that I think of it, *that* entitles me to write in CALIFORNIA GARDEN. I have had my garden in California! Oh, a very modest garden, to be sure, and a rented one, but one which added greatly to the pleasure of my stay. No vegetables

Blooming Balboa Park

JUNE AND JULY

Formal Garden—Roses, Zinnias (late June), Cannas
Around Natural History Museum—Hibiscus, Lantana
Alcazar Garden—Petunia
El Prado—Hydrangea, Begonia, Petunia, Magnolia
Lily Pool—Water lilies
Mall—Petunia and Ageratum
West of Fine Arts Gallery—Hydrangea
6th & Juniper—Hydrangea
Palisades Area—Hibiscus, Marigold, Ageratum, Magnolia
Botanical Bldg.—Gloxinia, Hydrangea, Begonia, Rubra Lilies (July)

AUGUST

Mall—Petunia, Ageratum
Alcazar Garden—Petunia
Palisades Area—Marigold, Ageratum
El Prado—Begonia
South of Organ—Oleander
Botanical Bldg.—Gloxinia, Coleus, Begonia, Caladium

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50 YEARS AGO
in CALIFORNIA GARDEN

E. Benard, Mar., 1910. There are those who never see a well-kept garden without the remark . . . "But what a lot of work it all means." To those be it said don't grow roses—buy them and by so doing miss nine-tenths of the joy.

L. A. Blochman, May, 1910. Fences! Relics of barbarism. June, 1910. Newcomers in San Diego will need *The California Garden* to teach them the difference between Eastern and Western Gardening.

(they have never interested me much), but fruit trees, roses, a lawn which I tried my best to tend as meticulously as the owner had . . .

. . . It happened, however, because of a short absence, that the grass went unmowed longer than it should. I still smile at the memory of that day when, thinking me still away, the neighbor women, one on either side, exchanged comments over the fences separating our gardens, and I, hidden in my nook, overhead this bit of timeless dialogue:

Neighbor-on-the-right: Just look at that grass!

Neighbor-on-the-left: I've never seen it that high before.

Neighbor-on-the-right: If the owner could see it now . . .

Neighbor - on - the - left: He'd die, that's all!

I was the one who was dying, bursting with silent laughter, and with shame. The next day, the lawn was shipshape.

The orange trees amazed me. They had been selected to produce fruit the year around, one in blossom when the other was providing beautiful fruit for the morning's juice. There was a fine, healthy fig tree as well. Never before had I watched, day by day, the irresistible surge of growth which brings forth buds, and then spreads tender green leaves over grey and twisted branches. In July, I had a battle with the birds over the figs which, by then, were bursting with sugar. A sly old cat also lay in wait for the thieves, although hers was a different reason. And lastly, some apple trees completed this tiny corner of paradise, which I lost, not for having tasted their fruit (they were really only good for sauce, and Adam himself wouldn't have known how to cook them), but because the end of the courses at college brought me back to earth.

And that earth was France. I carried kernels of California corn and a cactus from Albuquerque in my baggage. The cactus is doing fairly well, but it is clearly not showing any enthusiasm: it yearns for its native New Mexico. I have no hope of seeing it bloom like those at Palm Springs, or rather like those shown in the postcards of that region. For last year, the only flowers to be seen in the desert after an excessively dry winter were those of the ocotillo, so fittingly called the "devil's stove-poker" for its flaming blossoms at the end of long stalks. Another surprise lay in store for me that day, when, having searched in vain for the springs at Borrego, we were returning to the coast: I suddenly found myself on roads startlingly like those of Normandy, roads along which I saw hedges of lilac, and apple and peach trees in flower. And therein lies the unusual attraction of Southern California: one can go, within an hour's drive, from total desert with mysterious groves of palms, to mountain scenery, with pines, live oaks, and manzanitas with their smooth, hard wood.

Oh, the wondrous diversity of that region! I remember it with a touch of melancholy on this first day of April when, from my window, I look out over the French countryside blossoming with apple and peach trees and lilac. And here, as on the roads of Pine Hills, I am not far from woods of pine and live oak. But, even though France is not very large, it would take me much more than an hour to reach the desert or the ocean. Better not to think too much, at least not until my next trip. Better to seek my happiness in the simple, immediate present—in a French garden.

A Reader Says . . .

If you have trouble with a clogging nozzle on your garden sprayer, try including a tablespoonful of Terrovite in your spray mixture.

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Ceratozamia mexicana, looking down at the center of the plant, showing the immature bloom and the graceful pinnate leaves. This cycad usually flowers in April in Southern California.

not palms, not ferns, but

CYCADS, HEIRLOOM PLANTS

by Dorothy S. Behrends

Photographs by William G. Behrends

POSSIBLY the world's two oldest plants are still among the most beautiful garden subjects. Cycads are believed to be the first seed-bearing plants; only ferns are older, and they bear spores. In pre-historic times, probably during the Mesozoic age, a large stand of cycads grew in what is now Cycad National Monument, between the forks of the Cheyenne River in the Southern Black Hills. Ferns, too, grew abundantly and spread throughout the United States, but cycads, having a more complicated reproductive system, could not survive the violent changes in climate through succeeding ages. Today, cycad specialists must search abroad for plants and seed.

Both in historical perspective and in the lives of modern families, cycads qualify as heirlooms. Given any care, they are long-lived, and all are slow-growing. As an average, it takes one an estimated twenty years to grow twelve inches; others are even slower, so that the age of a specimen is difficult to estimate. They may be handed down from generation to generation—and they *are* valuable.

Only people with limitless patience, however, should become involved in growing them from seed. A list of a few of the complications should serve to make the point:

- It takes perseverance and patience to make contact with seed sources.
- Seeds must be *fresh* to germinate.
- A constant and controlled heat and humidity must be maintained.
- Pricking out and potting of seedlings as they emerge must be done regularly — the seeds do not all germinate at the same time.
- Ideal conditions must be maintained for at least one year until the seedlings become established and harden off.

Most of us, after reading that list, will take our cycads from the nursery, thank you, but Mr. and Mrs. Horace Anderson are the patient kind. When they moved to Leucadia from Santa Monica in 1955, they were in search of an area for growing unusual plants, cycads included. In locating their wholesale nursery on the south side of the Batiquitos Lagoon, they found most of the answers to their needs. The climate has been nearly ideal. As the inevitable problems have arisen, the Andersons have solved them with the same qualities of patience and determination they have shown in successfully growing exotic and baffling plants.

THE refinements listed above are unnecessary for cycads in their native state, Anderson explains, because nature fulfills them all free, along with the hot, humid climate they love. In cultivation, additional complications arise if the grower wishes his mature cycads to produce seed. Male and female flowers appear on separate plants. In the wilds where the trees abound, the wind attends to the transfer of pollen, but here there are too few adult trees. The grower must take pollen from the male tree, which produces a bloom shaped like an erect, elongated cone, and scatter it on the somewhat smaller, dome-shaped bloom of the

LEFT: Male cone of **Ceratozamia mexicana,** much longer and narrower than the female. This is a mature cone; pollen was easily tapped from between the scales.

female. This female bloom consists of spreading tufts with notched scales which contain the ovules.

Many cycad varieties are being grown successfully in the San Diego area, but are often mistaken for palms or ferns, both of which they resemble.

Cycas revoluta is probably the most easily obtainable. Many people know it as the Sago Palm. The young plant has a trunk shaped like a pineapple, and the fronds growing out of the crown reinforce the resemblance. Because of its slow growth, it can remain in the same container for many years. There are numerous beautiful specimens throughout the county.

Cycas circinalis, sometimes called the Fern Palm, has feathery fern-like foliage.

Ceratozamia Mexicana gets its name from the bloom of the female plant. Ceratozamia means "horned cone," referring to the horned scales on the female cone.

Dion edule is a handsome Mexican native with deep green fronds. In Mexico it is a source of food for animals and man; its seeds are eaten roasted or boiled.

Dion spinulosum, another handsome Mexican native, enjoys San Diego's coastal climate. It will need more space because of its spiny leaves.

Dion purpusii, introduced into Southern California about two years ago, is also a Mexican cycad. It is similar in appearance to *D. spinulosum,* the difference lying in the louvered leaflets which have two pairs of spines.

Those varieties listed above can be seen in the Botanical Building in Balboa Park. Excellent specimens of most are featured by the better nurseries.

Of more recent introduction, via Horace Anderson, is the extremely scarce *Bowenia serulata,* an Australian cycad with bipinnate, i.e. twice-divided, leaflets. This is the only cycad species with compound leaves, and Anderson feels fortunate in having been able to bring its seeds to the United States. This cycad most nearly resembles a fern.

Cycad seeds have several peculiarities. They are placed on the surface of the soil, not under. The pecan-shaped seed of *Macrozamia spiralis* is single-minded: it will sprout a root from only one side. If it happens to be put on the soil wrong side up it still produces the root on the predetermined side, into the air. *Cycas circinalis* seed, on the other hand, will sprout from any side touching moist soil. These seeds are large, and at first glance resemble the seed of the Dickinson avocado.

MANY readers will remember the exceptionally beautiful cycads on display at the 1959 Southern California Exposition and San Diego County Fair in the Flowerland section. Some were young specimens (possibly 8 to 15 years old) growing in oriental containers. Each frond had been trained

ABOVE: Female cone of **Ceratozamia mexicana.** Note the two "horns" on each scale, visible even though this cone was immature when photographed.

by patio-plant specialist Marshall Gresham of Encinitas to grow at an artistic angle to compliment the container. This, too, took patience.

Gresham firmly believes that patience and cycads are synonymous. He advises growing them in containers that fit their age and size. A thirty-five year old specimen of *Dion edule,* for example, will have a trunk six inches high. In the proper sized pot, the plant shows off to advantage and makes an attractive patio conversation piece.

Especially when young, cycads prefer filtered sunlight, although some varieties have been known to grow in full sun. In general, they need care similar to that given tree ferns, with the exception that they need less water during winter months.

Today's gardeners are becoming conscious of the treasures available, especially when they can add an unusual cycad to their plant collection. If you don't already own an "heirloom," and have time and patience, a young plant is practical. But for immediate satisfaction find an older plant for your sheltered garden nook, and while you're admiring it, think about the ingenious system which produced such complex beauty among the first creations of the plant world.

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PETS or PESTS?

. . . the so-called lowly Geranium

by Thos. L. Hosmer

TO many garden lovers a Geranium is something that, in the East, you pet in a pot, and in Southern California, you cut down with an axe. To these people there is but one type of geranium, and most of them are red. If you happen to be bold enough to mention that Lady Washingtons are also geraniums, they'll tell you immediately that they're Pelargoniums. How right they are, without really knowing why. To these same people Ivy Geraniums are in no way related to the garden type, and the common Scented Leaf belongs to another world. Don't bring up Species, Fancy Leaves or Dwarfs, then, or you're in for trouble.

Actually, everything I have mentioned belongs to the Pelargonium section of the *Geraniaceae family*. And what a family it is! There are more interesting and unusual members of the Pelargonium Division alone than in thousands of entire plant families.

This **Pelargonium Division** is split up into several main sections. Most familiar is the Hortorum group, embracing all of the common garden types which range in color from white through all shades of pink, red, orange, and combinations in the bi-colors. Flowers come in single, semi-double, double, cacti-flowered, rosebud and carnation types. From the garden variety, you progress into semi-dwarfs, dwarfs or miniatures, or into the fancy-leaved, about which as yet most of the world knows little.

The second real division is the **Domesticums**—the Lady Washingtons which for years have been called Pelargoniums. Less progress has been made with these plants than in any other section. At present the Lady Washingtons are all singles. At the time of his death, the late David Case of Santa Barbara had a double-flowering plant on his bench, under the working name of Grandma Moses, but in the shuffle later it was lost to the world.

Only Ontwater of Topanga Canyon has done much hybridizing in this division. He has come up with some nice numbers for hanging baskets. As yet, no hybridizer has come up with a real Dwarf, but Bill Schmidt of Palo Alto has some wonderful introductions which are very compact. One of these, Grand Slam, was awarded highest honors last year by the Royal Horticulture Society.

The third main section is the **Peltatums**, commonly called Ivy Geraniums or sometimes climbers. By themselves, they cannot climb, but tumble over themselves and do a good job when something gets in their way, especially a woven wire fence or a vine. They also come in a variety of colors, and in both single, semi-double, double and rosebud type blooms, and two of them even have fancy leaves.

One of the most interesting sections is the **Scented Leaves**, which almost defy description. Name the scent and you can probably find it. The Scents and the types of leaves are their two outstanding features. A few produce nice blooms, but too often they are inconspicuous. Variegated leaves can also be found among them, the best being the lemon-scented, Variegated Prince Rupert.

The **Specie** section is most interesting of all. It embraces dozens of rare and interesting plants which are a collector's dream. Then, too, the race of Dwarfs and miniatures belonging to the Domesticum group are a story all their own.

This author has done a great deal of research in the use of scented leaves in cooking, and has had many articles on the subject published both here and abroad. Later in this series, the subject will be covered here, along with a special article on each Division, and perhaps one on America's hybridizers.

Seven years ago a group of geranium lovers gathered in Santa Paula, California, under the leadership of Paul Jackson, to organize the International Geranium Society. At those early meetings men came from the East, South, Central and Western parts of the United States. The Society has now grown into a strong organization which publishes an interesting quarterly under the guidance of Philip Chandler of the Plant Pathology department of U.C.L.A.

If you want to keep up on geraniums, it would be wise to join this society. Its magazine alone is well worth the $3 membership. The author will feel well repaid for writing these articles if even a few readers send him their checks for membership. He can be reached at Rte #4, Box 99A, Vista, California.

At this address, too, the author maintains a large geranium collection which he hopes will some day be as large as the one formerly available to visitors when he owned and operated Pelargonium Farm. It is a collection for the satisfaction of the Inner Man, not for sale, and can be seen by appointment only.

Watch for further articles on the so-called lowly geranium in this magazine, and if you have specific questions, write to the author at the above address, enclosing a self-addressed, stamped envelope. You will get a reply when time can be found between jobs.

Mr. Hosmer is Consulting Landscape Architect for California Western University.

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Flowerland Makes the Fair

by Morrison W. Doty

HALF an hour by car from San Diego along the Spanish Padres' El Camino Real, a breath-taking man-made phenomenon materializes each year during twelve days of June and July. One of the finest Flower and Garden Shows in the nation has been developing over the years on a site between the beautiful, rolling Santa Margarita hills and the blue Pacific. So quietly has it developed that probably not a third of the people in San Diego County has seen it, and fewer still realize its preeminence among shows of its kind. Yet the experts agree, at Del Mar, Flowerland has made the Fair.

A good fair has something of real value for everyone, no matter what his age, interests, occupation or hobbies. Perhaps that is a prejudiced opinion, since I come from a family whose business over a period of thirty years was exhibiting in fairs throughout the United States and Canada. But where else can one find so conveniently arranged such a variety of the products of God and man, evidence of his most advanced progress in every field, and many kinds of entertainment and art besides? For the lover of plants and gardens, the Fair at Del Mar has an almost magnetic attraction. And that is as it should be. The flower show there has been studied by fair officials from all over California, and from other states, as well. It now ranks far above the flower show at the Sacramento State Fair.

During the Depression Thirties when the fair began, the underlying ideas were perhaps more economic than esthetic. Local officials, with financial assistance from Bing Crosby and the Works Project Administration, envisioned the big concrete and steel amphitheatre, a race track, and the early exhibit halls. The San Diego County Fair Association, taking charge in 1936, made ambitious plans in keeping with the fast growth of San Diego city and county. But for a flower show, it set aside only a small triangular plot, 200 by 300 feet, without buildings or windbreaks to shelter delicate plants, and only old canvas supported by weathered tree trunks to protect them from the sun. There were twenty exhibitors that year.

That was a small start indeed at a Fair representing an area which had already produced such internationally known gardeners as Alfred D. Robinson of Rosecroft fame, and Kate Sessions, mother of beautiful Balboa Park, famous from the two Expositions.

In the years since 1936, it has required optimism, persistence, and dedication to an ideal of beauty, to put on a flower show ambitious enough to match the potential of San Diego. The obstacles and inconveniences are forbidding: for only a few days' display, exhibitors must create and maintain a lush, beautiful setting, in hot midsummer, twenty miles from town, then dismantle it without injury to valuable plants. Many gardeners require helpful cooperation and continuous and patient persuasion, in addition to the lure of prizes, before they consent to risk their finest specimen plants. Putting the show together each year has become both an organizational and a personal relations task of astounding proportions.

The Fair Association has been fortunate in having M. E. Salsberry, a man of vision and persistence, in the demanding position of Superintendent of the flower show. Under his devoted supervision, its growth during the past ten years has been spectacular.

Instead of the original little triangle, Flowerland now occupies nearly five acres. The list of exhibitors has grown from 20 to over 3000, including nurserymen, florists, garden clubs, individuals, and associations and societies devoted to particular plants: orchids, roses, begonias, fuchsias, dahlias, ferns, etc. The purchase price of the plants and materials they display would run far into six figures.

Prizes are correspondingly generous, with third, fourth and fifth prizes to encourage strong competition, and in many classes. Exhibitors come from all over San Diego and nearby counties, even from Santa Barbara and beyond. As in any large fair, there have been occasional complaints and criticisms, usually regarding the enforcement of regulations. The criticism seems insignificant, however, when viewed in relation to this outstanding record of growth and the continuously high level of esthetic achievement.

Last year, Flowerland was extended to include the main entrance to the fairgrounds, so that visitors found themselves passing through the turnstiles into a real wonderland. Under widened coverings of shade cloth, flowers by the thousands greeted the eye: in booths and hanging baskets, in grottos, pergolas, and patios; in landscapes recreated with dichondra lawns, complete with waterfalls, pools and fountains, and tropical biras to add lilt and color. Flowers, flowers, flowers. Obviously, the Fair knows when it has a good thing.

Trees for Color and Comment

by Chauncy I. Jerabek, San Diego tree man

SAN DIEGO'S climate will accommodate a wide variety of unusual trees. Some have been popular in years past, while others, such as Jacaranda, are in vogue today. Here are descriptions and locations of nine which deserve wider attention.

Angophora lanceolata, commonly called Apple myrtle, is a member of the myrtle family and a close kin to the eucalyptus. It is native to New South Wales and Queensland.

A large tree with lance-shaped leaves, as the name implies, it produces showy flowers in dense terminal clusters, followed by bell-shape seed capsules with five ribs. These pods make identification easy. When in full bloom, from late May through July, the tree will be covered with honey-bees. A smooth inner bark, exposed as the deciduous bark falls away from trunk and branches, is whitish or grey, sometimes even flesh-colored. This outstanding tree will thrive where there is little soil.

Location—5415 Taft, La Jolla

Angophora lanceolata, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harrison W. Millard, 5415 Taft.

So popular here that its botanical name is more widely used than its common name, the *Jacaranda,* a member of the bignonia family, is considered one of the loveliest of spring-flowering trees. There are some 60 varieties in Brazil, but here we grow only the *acutifolia.* Common names are Fern tree, Coin-pod tree, and Green Ebony. It makes an exceptionally good street tree or garden specimen.

In late winter or early spring, these trees lose their foliage. Later, large, loose clusters of bell-shape, lavender-blue or purple flowers completely cover the bare branches. The blossoms fall easily, creating a purple carpet on the ground below. Following the blooms come curious, coin-shape capsules about two inches across, which split open when dry and release numerous winged seeds. The final stage is a return of the delicate fern-like foliage.

Locations—
Central: 2044 First, 2765 Brant, 1915 Sunset Blvd., 1430 Vine, 1102 Hunter, 1505 & 1531 Glenwood Rd.
Pacific Beach: 3404 Jewell, 3521 Jewell (street tree)
La Jolla: 7744 Fay
Pt. Loma: 3244 Dumas, 3106 Curtis
East: 4603 Orange (street tree), 4849 Edgeware Rd.

Another tree of the myrtle family, called Rose Apple, is *Eugenia jambos,* a native of the East Indies. This tree will grow to 25 feet in its native country, but is smaller here. Oblong, lance-shaped leaves are wine-colored when new, dark and shiny when matured. Its garden value is as a small specimen tree.

Greenish-white flowers shaped like shaving brushes appear in spring. These delicate blossoms are followed by small oval fruit which are creamy and pink in color. This fruit, which can be used for jelly, has a crisp and delicate flavor, tasting the way roses smell, hence its common name.

Locations—
East: 4646 Norma Dr., 28th & Thorn (NE corner over S & E walls)
La Mesa: 4950 Porter Hill Rd. (NE of garage)

Hymenosporum flavum, known as the Wing Seed Tree and Yellow Coin-pod tree, is indigenous to Queensland and New South Wales. It is an upright, slender, loosely branched tree of the Pittosporum family, with large, smooth and glossy, light green leaves.

In springtime, a profusion of yellow, tubular, sweet-scented blossoms appear, although throughout the year one may find scattered blooms. Before the flowers fall they fade to creamy-white, so it is possible to see both yellow and white flowers on the tree at the same time.

Locations—
La Jolla: La Jolla Elementary School (NW section of grounds, 3 trees)
Pt. Loma: 873 San Antonio Pl. (3 in group)
East: 4745 Jean Dr. (near garage)
Central: Education Center, Campus Ave. (SW section of grounds, 6 trees; Fire Station, 10th & University, 4225 Third; Balboa Park—5 E of Lily Pool; and the oldest in the city, SE of 6th & Ivy.

Chiranthodendron platanoides, is often called Monkey's Hand or Devil's Hand for the eerie resemblance of the scarlet flower to a wrist with out-spread fingers tipped with claws. It is a native of southern Mexico and Central America where it is common in the humid forests.

This evergreen tree has large sycamore-like leaves which are slightly downy on the reverse side, with prominent veins. One that I measured was 7 by 8 inches with a 7-inch petiole. The showy flowers are five-pointed, with leathery sepals which are red in-

side and bronzy on the outside.

Location—3141 Shadowlawn (near garage), Loma Portal

The Cape Chestnut, *Calodendrum capense,* is indigenous to the coastal forests of South and East Africa. Another spring-flowering tree, it bears large rose-lilac flowers, mottled with purple, in loose terminal clusters. The grass green leaves are oval, up to six inches long and three inches wide, with numerous parallel veins. This medium-sized, semi-evergreen tree blooms during May and June. The fruit capsules which follow are nearly spherical, woody and covered with tubercles. The black and shiny seeds resemble chestnuts.

Locations—
Central: 3145 Brant
La Jolla: 5844 Beaumont
East: N end of Miracle Pl. (part of garden at 4704 Jean Dr.)
Pt. Loma: 3152 Seville (corner Evergreen)
Coronado: 601 4th (2 near garage)

Albizzia julibrissin, the Silk or Mimosa tree, is native from Persia, through central China, to Japan. It belongs to the pea family and is closely allied to the acacia. In its native habitat it becomes a large, spreading tree, and will do the same here, given plenty of moisture and good soil. Judicious pruning will keep it within bounds.

It is a deciduous tree which produces feathery, doubly-compounded leaves in late spring. Throughout the summer, dainty pink flowers made up of numerous stamens and resembling powder puffs cover the tree. It is especially useful in an area of massed foliage where it will be inconspicuous while leafless, or as a tub plant which can be moved into the foreground when in flower.

Locations—
Central & East: 1724 30th, 3443 31st (corner Myrtle), 4210 Monroe

Brachychiton acerifolius, called the Flame Tree or Red Shower, is another native of New South Wales and Queensland, and a member of the chocolate family. A tree with a straight, rigid trunk, it is covered throughout the year with exceptionally handsome, deeply-lobed glossy leaves. When leafless, or nearly so, it produces loose clusters of half-inch scarlet bells which smother the tree with their brightness. The small stalks of the individual flowers turn red, making them resemble pieces of coral. After the blooms come long-stemmed, boat-shape seed pods.

When the tree is in full bloom it looks like a flaming torch, hence the name Flame Tree. When the flowers drop, the ground is covered with a "red shower." Dried seed pods of all varieties of Brachychiton are in great demand among curio dealers and flower arrangers.

Location seems to affect blooming habits, or perhaps the trees do not bloom every year. In March, a tree at **811 Tolita** in Coronado was in full flower and beginning to set new seed pods. But the large specimen west of the garage at **3404 Cromwell Pl.** and the two smaller ones at **2640 Nutmeg** and **2352 First** were entirely covered with mature foliage and showed no sign of losing their leaves. The stately specimen in Chula Vista, at the southwest corner of **4th and G,** was partly defoliated, while the double-trunked, 40 foot specimen in **Balboa Park** across from the west entrance of the **Natural History Museum,** and the one at the rear of the **Recital Hall** in the Palisades area were breaking out in new foliage.

MONKEY'S HAND tree shown in a drawing by the late Alfred C. Hottes.

Brachychiton discolor, called Lacebark, is an upright tree with a smooth, grey-green trunk. It bears maple-shaped leaves which are often deeply cut.

When in full bloom it is leafless, but in our climate it may flower on one side and bear foliage on the other. The buds are deep brown, while the large bell-shape flowers are a deep pink, tinged with brown. The outer part of the bells is backed with a thick bronzy felt. The boat-shape pods are from five to six inches long, filled with small oblong seeds encased in a fuzzy yellow covering.

Locations—
East: 4720 54th

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BOOK TOURS

Conducted by Alice W. Heyneman

THE IRIS. By N. Leslie Cave. St. Martin's Press, New York, 1959. 240 pages. $7.50.

A most comprehensive and readable book on the subject of iris, this is a second edition of one first published in England about ten years ago. Though written from an English point of view, it covers the entire world of iris growers and enthusiasts, and devotes a special chapter to the work done in America. It is copiously illustrated, with color plates, full page photographs, line drawings, and a "how-to" page on rhizome division.

The author insists that iris are as good-tempered as they are beautiful. Many old rules and prohibitions are not really necessary or important: lime need not be added to the soil, and manure is a perfectly acceptable top dressing. Like all garden advisers, however, he maintains that original preparation of the soil is of first importance. He prefers September as planting time, says a bed should be set out with rhizomes pointing the same way "to avoid premature collisions," and assures us that the tall modern types are not greedier or choosier as to soil than the older, less magnificent breeds.

The bulbous class with its many subdivisions is discussed at length. So are species iris, including the *Spuria*, so happy in San Diego, and the English and Siberian, as well as the lovely Douglas which still grows wild in California. He recommends the *Tectorum* for planting in leaf mold in shady places, the long-flowering *Stylosa*, and the supremely beautiful but more difficult *Oncocyclus* and *Regelias*, which want raised beds, impeccable drainage, lime, and constant sun. All of the species are listed in long and comprehensive tables.

The end of the book contains iris distribution charts, maps, family trees of recent introductions, and, as such a really comprehensive volume should, a good index. (A.W.H.)

Trees . . . cont.

Central: Balboa Park Nursery (NE of office)
La Mesa: 4950 Porter Hill Rd. (N of house)

Brachychiton populneus, a native of Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, is often called Bottle Tree for the bulge in its trunk above the soil line. It is a handsome, drought-resistant evergreen with a tapering habit of growth.

The small, bell-shape flowers are creamy, mottled with chocolate spots, and often have a purple throat. These blooms are more curious than showy. Some trees produce an abundance of seed pods, while others in the same vicinity will have only a scattered few. But no matter how many pods, there is always someone who is pleased to have them.

Many streets in San Diego used to be lined with Bottle Trees. They have been used extensively in parkways in other cities.

Locations—

Pt. Loma: 3734 La Cresta
Central & East: 3771 37th, 3738 Villa Terrace, 345 Laurel, 28th & Upas (NW corner), 2933-2939 Franklin, 2422 Montclair, 818 Evans, 4412 32d, 3676 Van Dyke.

John Cole's book & craft shop
7871 Ivanhoe Avenue
La Jolla California

IMMORTAL ROSES. By Jean Gordon. Red Rose Publications, Woodstock, Vermont, 1959. 170 pages, $1.95 paper bound, $3.95 cloth.

Jean Gordon, author of PAGEANT OF THE ROSE and ROSE RECIPES, has collected here one hundred stories and vignettes covering nearly every aspect of life: romance, philosophy, pathos, humor and religion. Among them, "one for each petal of the Centifolia, the hundred-leaved rose," are legends, fairy-tales, and nostalgic memories from the time when the first caveman moved a wild rose to his door through the ages to our own time.

Of particular interest to Western rosarians are the stories of the Lady Banksia, Tombstone's famous "Easter Rose;" the account of Paul de Longpre, famous for his "Yard of Roses" paintings, who lives on in memory with a street named for him in Hollywood; the story of Reverend George Schoener, Padre of the Roses, and his work in Santa Barbara and at the University of Santa Clara near San Jose. You need not be a rosarian, or even a gardener, to read with interest the story of the nation's beloved "American Beauty," of the origin of "Father's Day," or of how the Pacific Rose Society in Pasadena had a part in naming, in the Rose Bowl on V-E Day, Francis Meilland's rose "Peace."

Many of these stories are adapted from the 45 volume set of American Rose Annuals. Whether you want a reference book, a "pick-up" book for delightful entertainment, or a book for pleasant bedtime reading, IMMORTAL ROSES makes a worthwhile addition to your library.

(Reviewed by Helen D. Carswell)

SUNSET LAWN AND GROUND COVER BOOK. Lane Book Company, Menlo Park, California, 1960. $1.75.

Nothing takes the place of a lawn—a cool, soft, green carpet to please your eyes or your bare feet. It needn't be large; a small lawn will do, but it must be uniformly soft and green. No

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two lawns anywhere are alike, but this new SUNSET BOOK probably contains the answers to your particular questions. There are excellent sections on the principles of watering, with information on both portable and automatic sprinklers, on mowing and edging, on weedkillers, fertilizers and insecticides. The summary of groundcovers is comprehensive and informative.

GARDEN WORK CENTERS, a Sunset Book. Lane Book Company, Menlo Park, California, 1960. $1.75.

"Do it yourself" projects seem to be endless. Once his garden is underway, the enthusiastic homeowner needs a work center for planning, for organizing, or as a base of operations. In this book he will find plans and specifications for plant shelters, lath-houses, lathed-over side yards, greenhouses, cold frames, compost bins, storage units, and multi-purpose work centers. There are details of potting areas, plant display and tool storage units, plus, for the distaff side of the gardening fraternity, ideas for a flower arranging center.

Photographs, drawings and illustrations are generously used. Only one thing has been omitted — a weather tight bookshelf for Sunset books!

(Reviewed by Thos L. Crist)

AUSTRALIAN PEN PAL

Editor, CALIFORNIA GARDEN:

Could you help me in making contacts who are interested in Horticulture? I should like to correspond with such people and would appreciate your help. I could also send seeds of Australian natives to any people who would do the same or who have seeds of any outstanding plants.

Sincerely,

C. G. Brown
17 Landcox
Brighton S6
Victoria, Australia

What's New in Our Nurseries

Summer is a fine time to wander through the nurseries. All of that greenery seems to cool the air, and it's always pleasant to realize that someone else has to take care of the watering. If you happen to be partial to shade plants, you won't find a nicer climate in town than that provided for your favorites.

Naturally enough, nurseries currently are talking up shade trees, even though the one you buy right now won't keep you out of the sun for a year or two. You'll find Shamel Ash, Brazilian Pepper, Evergreen Elm, Liquidambar, Olive, plus many other good shade trees at most of our nurseries. **Pacific Beach Gardens** is featuring a variety of Podocarpus (Fern pine) which they particularly recommend — a Needle leaf grafted *Podocarpus elongata.*

A fairly new tree in town is *Drimys winteri,* and it may well have a future here because at least two nurseries are enthusiastic about it. **Mission Hills Nursery** rates it highly among flowering trees, and **PB Gardens** says it is vastly under-rated as a tree for patio use. White, fragrant flowers in May and June, so now is the time to have a look.

They recommend azaleas and rhododendrons in the vicinity of *Drimys* and there goes your summer. If you feel bold enough for rhododendron, we've seen some fine small ones at **Bennett's,** and larger sizes at **Walter Andersen's, PB Gardens** and **De Haan's.** If you hurry you can catch them in bloom. They're worth looking at even if you decide not to take one home.

Not brand new, but still newsworthy are the bonsai starters at **Presidio.** If you have the itch to bonsai, you can get everything you need, including advice, for a small outlay of money. Their elaborate new Garden Center building will be under construction this early summer.

Remember that comprehensive article on citrus in the February SUNSET? If you were intrigued by the Four Winds dwarf citrus discussed therein, look for them at **Garnet Nursery** in Pacific Beach.

Getting back to shade and shade plants, as befits this weather, **Sierra Vista Gardens** out in Lemon Grove has over 200 varieties of begonias, an unbelievable total, but true. At the other end of town, **Hillside Nursery** in La Jolla has a fine stock of exotics, and a view, too. And don't miss **Rosecroft** on Pt. Loma. Their tuberous begonias became such a tourist attraction a few years ago that they had to start charging admission (refundable with your purchase—and it's only two bits).

If by this time you're devoting too much time to visiting nurseries and not enough to maintaining your own garden, and if you live in the beach area, give **Grand Avenue Nursery** a call. They claim to do more work in an hour than a whole passel of eager elves.

A Reader Says . . .

For a striking color combination, plant clivias in the shade of eugenias. In spring the rich purple of eugenia berries makes a perfect foil for the yellow-to-orange clivia flowers.

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REAR GARDEN of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Moore.

Tropical Paradise on a City Lot

by Donald A. Rae

A casual inspection of Ed Moore's garden in Pacific Beach scarcely conveys the full impact of what is growing there. Framing his front yard are two Guadalupe Fan Palms (*Erythea edulis*) planted at an angle for maximum interest. Beside the driveway is a Bird of Paradise (*Strelitzia reginae*) and another tall, gracefully curving palm, a *Thrinax Parviflora.* Near the doorway are two other tall varieties, a *Howea forsteriana* and a *Washingtonia robusta.* These are the obvious features of a pleasant, uncrowded landscape, yet they are only a sample. For on this average-sized residential lot, Moore has a grand total of 110-125 different varieties of palm trees.

The rear garden is a tropical paradise. At the far side of a small lawn, a pond dotted with water lilies is surrounded by tall, short, broad and thin palms, in every shade of green. There are surprises everywhere: cycads, cacti, begonias, staghorn ferns, philodendron, clivia. The effect is lush but not overpowering because Moore has grouped plants as they appear in their natural settings. "I feel that nature has more to offer than man," he explains.

Moore has a small greenhouse for starting seeds, and a large lathhouse which protects his more tender specimens from the worst of the elements. Guiding me toward the greenhouse, he said, "When I bought my first palm seven years ago, I didn't know much about them. Now, they're my ruling passion. I never get through working with them." He explained that it takes anywhere from a month to a year for the seeds to germinate. "They start more easily under controlled heat, so to help them along, I made a 'starting' box. I keep it at a high, even temperature to give the seeds bottom heat. It's 99% luck," he added. "In a sense, I'm experimenting, but I like to see if I can keep them growing."

The real test comes when a young palm is moved into the garden, since it isn't easy to grow certain varieties in San Diego's climate. Moore pointed out a Fishtail Palm (*Caryota*) reaching through a clump of shrubbery toward the sun. From Southern Asia, this palm, he was told, would never grow outdoors in Southern California, yet already it has gone through three winters and is still hardy and green.

"I'm just at the beginning," Moore said. "There are over 4000 varieties of palms listed. Some are very delicate; others are over 200 feet tall." He reached down to show me a five-year-old palm only eight inches high. Then he turned to one which he considers most unusual, a *Ceroxylon andicola,* the Waxpalm. This thin-trunked tree reaches 200 feet in the Andes of Columbia and Venezuela where it thrives to altitudes of 14,000 feet.

He pointed out another unusual tree, a *Chrysalidocarpus Lutescens* (Yellow

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Butterfly palm) from Madagascar. This is the only palm which branches naturally, he explained. "It will take it 12 to 20 years to start its 'umbrella,' but it will be an enormous picture of beauty."

Beside one of the short paths which encircle sections of the garden, Moore showed me a Chilean Wine Palm, the largest-trunking of the species. He also has a Climbing Palm from Central America, large Fan Palms from Baja California, a Windmill Palm from Formosa, and a lone Coconut palm.

His most prized variety, a *Chamaedorea,* he recently sold because it became too large. He raised the ceiling on his lath-house more than once to accommodate that one tree, and felt as if he were giving up a part of his life when finally forced to part with it. He quickly points out, however, that he is propagating a new specimen.

"Here, we use palms ornamentally," Moore said, "but in other countries they are economically important." He gave examples of food, shelter, clothing, and medicine which come from various varieties. Palms produce dates and coconuts, and yield such diverse products as sugar, a flux used in tin-plating cans, and a glycerin for hydraulics.

Moore laments the fact that so few tropicals are planted in the San Diego area. "We ought to be using more exotic palms and tropicals instead of ordinary hardy plants," he maintains. "Palms are a challenge, but they fit naturally into our way of living. We're missing out on a lot of beauty by overlooking them."

To help emphasize the rewards of growing new varieties of palms, Moore is going ahead with his experiments. He plans to import Prichardia palms from Hawaii and Fiji. He admits that he doesn't expect them to grow, but he'll try them just the same. Some seeds he brought back from Mexico on a recent trip are beginning to germinate now; later, he will add these palms to his garden. He is also planning to build a small "creek" through the palms to the pond, thus emphasizing even more the tropical side of his paradise.

Moore's garden makes a fantastic impression on the visitor. It is as if a doorway to another world were opened —the jungle and the tropics erupting here in San Diego, pointing the way to new beauty in our town.

A Yellow Camellia?

A report of a "butter yellow" camellia at Descanso Gardens in La Canada caused us to fire off an inquiry to John L. Threlkeld, Superintendent. Mr. Threlkeld's reply:

"The 'butter yellow' camellia which you refer to in your letter is not a camellia but is of the genus *Tutcheria,* variety *spectabilis.* It is judged by some camellia authorities to be the closest relative of the camellia genus.

"The flower is truly yellow and blooms in July. The plant is about nine feet tall, and has a rangy habit of growth. The leaves are camellia-like except somewhat larger. The bark is gray, the young twigs green and slightly hairy. The flower is single with 7 or 9 petals, very closely resembling a single camellia. The anthers are yellow, the stigma is green, divided into three parts. This plant is about ten years old. It was grown from seed sent from Hong Kong where it is native.

"It is an ornamental plant of great garden value; however, its scientific value is believed to be in a breeding program to broaden the color range of the camellia family and to extend the bloom season.

"The *Tutcheria* is an exciting plant and one worthy of much interest. Your readers may wish to visit Descanso Gardens to see it bloom. Last year nine flowers were produced, about the middle of July. This year we expect perhaps a dozen flowers."

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JUNE

• Uncoil your garden hose. The theme for the next few months is water and mulch. Irrigate. You'll have to build trenches and maintain them, but the work will save time in the end. Mulch with manure, peat, leaf mold, or straw, and deeply enough to matter—several inches • Prune and pinch. Pinch chrysanthemums and dahlias. Prune bougainvillea, removing old canes and tipping new ones to promote side growth • Watch lawns for lawn moth; consider a preventive spray of chlordane now • A good time to slip camellias • Water fruit trees heavily • Feed and cut back geraniums • Choose bedding plants.

JULY

• Keep your hose running. Soak lawns regularly • Add a topdressing to your mulches • Prune and repot epiphyllums. Save cuttings in shade and start in August • Plant: bougainvillea, hibiscus, palms. Also the time to move palms if required • Sow annuals for winter color • Don't let camellias and azaleas dry out now or you'll lose next season's blooms. They get their last feeding this month or next • Continue heavy watering of fruit trees • Rest (while resting, you might make a tour of the garden and pick off spent blooms and seed pods, especially on fuchsias).

AUGUST

• Prune oleanders after flowering • Prune roses slightly and add a small dose of soil sulphur to counteract salts from heavy watering • Thin buds on camellias • Try cutting back a few fuchsias now for winter bloom • Start geranium cuttings • Stake chrysanthemums. Stop pinching them, and stop feeding when buds show color • Choose winter bulbs, and prepare beds for bulbs and sweet peas • Loosen mulches and replenish, but take care not to damage shallow-rooted plants • Flood pots and trenches to leach out salts • Spray paths and walks to maintain humidity • September's *real* heat is coming • More on that later.

A Calendar of Care

• Dahlias

DAHLIAS are coming into their own now, and the spectacular blooms will appear in greater abundance as their best season—summer—starts warming up. You'll be seeing them in yards all over San Diego between now and mid-August when they reach their period of peak growth.

Pompons, miniatures, and the open-centered dwarf varieties bloom first; 60 days or less is all they need between planting and bloom, given warm growing weather.

These small ones are the easiest to grow. They can be stuck in the ground anywhere you have a two-foot-square space. (You might even get two plants in that space.) You don't have to be an expert, and you needn't give them the attention the larger ones need to produce exhibition flowers.

A few plants of miniatures or poms will provide flowers for the house until October or November. Just water, feed, and spray as you would roses or other cut flowers.

For exhibition, the miniatures are supposed to be under four inches, and poms under two inches. To make them grow small (starting with roots of the small varieties, of course), pinch out the tops of the plants when three sets of leaves have developed. Six sprouts will pop out of the leaf nodes; then as those sprouts develop into limbs, pinch off the tips of the branches to make the plants even bushier. If you want really early flowers, don't pinch the second time, or compromise and pinch only two, three, or four of the branches, spacing the pinching so that the plant will maintain balance.

Miniatures and poms need not be disbudded like the larger dahlias being grown for size. The bushier you can make the plants by repeated pinching, and the more buds you allow to develop, the more flowers you will have. And small!

Roots of miniatures and pompoms are handled by most San Diego nurseries; or, you can order them from dahlia specialists or from seed catalogs. Unless you know how to pick good planting stock, it is advisable to beware of the dime store variety.

Many dahlia fanciers specialize in these small flowers, including in their gardens other varieties in addition to miniatures and poms: singles, collarettes, anemones, peony type, orchid type, and the velvety water lily types.

In addition to the small varieties, anyone who can grow zinnias or marigolds or asters can grow large dahlias with success. You just have to start with roots of the larger varieties, pinch as for the smaller types, but only once, and then, as buds appear, leave only one on each branch. The fewer the branches and the fewer the buds, the larger the flowers.

To get a close look at some of the best miniatures, pompoms, "novelties," and the large ones as well, be sure to see the dahlia exhibit at the county fair. And, to see all the varieties at their best, as specimen blooms, in multiple entries, and in arrangements, go to the big annual Dahlia Show staged

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in Balboa Park during the first weekend of August. There will be growers on hand who will answer questions about culture, where to get good stock, and about gardening in general.

They will tell you that growing the small varieties is easy—much easier than some annuals and bulbs. And they'll tell you that growing all dahlias is fun!

Larry Sisk
SD County Dahlia Society

• Fuchsias

SOME time in June or July your fuchsias should be at the peak of their first blooming. Decisions as to type or shape—bush, upright, hanging basket—will have been made earlier, and shaping and pinching completed around the middle of May.

After that, care consists mostly of generous watering (especially on hot days), and control of pests, besides, of course, maintaining your regular feeding program. A vigorous, well-fed, well-watered plant always resists any pest or disease best.

Ordinary watering in hot, dry San Diego weather is not enough for best results. Some air-moistening, such as fogging, is needed, especially if there is a warm, dry wind.

Most of the pests, especially worms which seem worse than usual this year, may be controlled with a weekly application of a good spray such as Isotox.

Feeding every two or three weeks with whatever plant food has proved best for you should be satisfactory. We like Blue Whale or Superthrive as prepared products, but fuchsias are not as fussy about their food as some plants. That's just one of the charming things about fuchsias.

Mary Bray Watson
Pres., SD Fuchsia Society

• Begonias

THE easiest way to care for any plant is to learn what it likes, and then provide it. This may sound like a simple formula, but human nature makes it complicated. If everyone were content to grow only the plants native to his own area, there would be no problem. We could plant them, forget them, and let nature take its course. Simple? Yes! But how monotonous!

Some Southern California desert dwellers—and don't forget that this *is* a desert—insist upon growing plants which belong in a tropical rain forest. To do this, they must simulate the humid tropics. This is an all year job, intensified in the summer when the plants are in their most active growing period.

For begonias, probably first consideration should be given to the matter of light. Filtered sunlight throughout the day, simulating high overhead tree branches, is the ideal, but protection from the direct rays of the sun from about mid-morning until late afternoon is the absolute necessity.

Moisture goes hand in hand with light, moisture in the air as well as in the soil. Begonias should not be allowed to dry out. Soil should be kept damp, but not wet—never let a potted begonia stand in a pan or saucer of water. But, when you do water, do a thorough job of it. Instead of a light sprinkle on top of the soil, keep watering until it runs through the bottom of the pot. To keep moisture in the air, wet down the surrounding area, the paths or adjacent beds. Occasionally spraying the foliage is helpful, but only occasionally—the excessive salts in our Colorado River water may cause leaf tip burn.

A soil that will remain moist, but not wet, must be a light, loose mixture, one that water will run through. We are trying to simulate the rain forest, and the soil there is composed of pure humus or compost. Leaf mold or fir bark and peat moss seem to do nicely as a substitute, but these "made" soils lack many of the natural elements needed for growth. These must be supplied in the form of plant food.

Every grower has his favorite type or brand and his own way of using it. Since they all seem to work, there can't be any *one* best plant food. The important thing is to follow the directions on the label so that *not more* than the recommended amount is used. It is good to use half-strength twice as often, and better to use quarter-strength four times as often. Never over-feed.

An item of begonia care which is often overlooked is wind protection. Certainly there should be free circulation of air around all plants, but begonias resent anything stronger than a gentle breeze. A small plastic screen will protect a few potted plants, while a solid fence, wall, or hedge will take care of a whole section of the garden.

Insects are ever present, but a regular spray program with a malathion product should keep the plants free from such pests as aphis, mealy-bug and scale. Those larger, more persistent pests—snails and slugs—require a constant watch. In addition to pellets and powders to forestall them, hand-picking and destroying is helpful. A healthy plant should not be particularly susceptible to disease, but if an attack of mildew should come along, use a karathane or captan product according to the directions on the container.

Repotting is usually unnecessary during summer months if this chore has been attended to by late spring. But if some of your "eager beavers" seem to outgrow their pots, and some do, the only thing to do is give them

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a larger one, increasing by one size. Tuberous begonias should be potted in large pots in the spring, and shouldn't need repotting during the growing season.

These notes apply to the whole begonia family with special emphasis on the tuberous branch. Tuberous begonias do better when food and water are applied in moderation. If you wonder "Should I, or shouldn't I?" don't, until the next time around. Don't "fuss" with them—just enjoy them!

Margaret M. Lee

• Orchids

GARDENING is the world's second oldest profession, and as with the oldest, it is somewhat difficult to draw the line between the amateur and the professional. It is always with some misgiving that I speak or write on any phase of gardening, for in doing so, one automatically assumes an air of authority, a characteristic I heartily dislike. Nevertheless, with spring fast drawing to a close, the orchid grower faces the most critical time of the year and perhaps a few reminders will be of use.

Generally, most species of orchids are now starting their new growth. To forestall any serious setback, it is best to divide and repot the cattleyas, cymbidiums, and cypripediums in the late spring so they may become re-established before fall.

With the prominence of fir bark as a potting medium, it is worthwhile remembering that it almost completely lacks nitrogen. Otherwise, it is a well-balanced medium for orchids. Nitrogen requirements can be met by adding organics to your compost, by top-dressing with organics, or by using liquid fertilizers providing soluble nitrogen.

At this time of year when the largest portion of our dividing is being done, it is probably in order to emphasize the virus threat. With the leaf mosaic in the cymbidium and the color-run in the cattleya claiming some of our finest varieties, it can't be overstressed to sterilize your cutting tools between the dividing of each plant. No remedy has yet been found to combat these infections, with the exception of complete physical destruction of the plants infected.

Along with dividing and repotting comes quite an accumulation of back bulbs and divisions. Try starting them in straight fir bark or in a sealed plastic bag. Be sure to get them into pots before the root structures become too extensive, since breaking the roots can undo a large part of your effort.

The writer is a firm believer that any successful plantsman is one who constantly observes, then puts into practical use the culmination of his observations. So the next time your spouse catches you day-dreaming among your orchids, just point out to him (or her) the fact that observing how and why a plant grows contributes to success in making it bloom.

Guy S. Moore, Jr.
SD County Orchid Society

• Camellias

MUCH has been written about the proper planting and care of camellias, but little has been said about what you want from them in your landscaping plan. Many buy plants for the color of the flower with little attention to the type of growth of the plant or its place in the garden.

There are camellias with low, spreading growth habits which can be used for ground cover. These are the Camellia Sasanqua. Some of them will take sun, and they bloom earlier, from September to December. This type can also be trained as espaliers or even as hanging basket specimens.

Camellia Japonicas grow in other ways and shapes. Low, slow-growing, spreading plants are delightful under a large picture window. The tall, columnar type fits narrow wall areas or corners. Then there is the loose, open type which espaliers beautifully, and others which can be trimmed as standards to resemble tree roses.

Next to consider is the size, type and color of bloom you wish for the particular spot. There is the single form, formal double, incomplete double, rose form, peony form and anemone form. The colors of bloom vary from white, pink and red, to variegations of white with pink, pink with white, white with red, red with white, and a combination of all three. Camellias bloom in all sizes from miniatures of one inch across to show type blooms of six inches or more.

For complete satisfaction in your choice, see the camellias at your nursery during the blooming season, beginning in September for Sasanquas

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and November for Japonicas. See them also in gardens in your own neighborhood to learn what types do best in your area.

Summer care of the camellias you already have will influence next season's blooms, so don't let up. Start fertilizing when plants have finished blooming, and continue at four to six week intervals. Plants in containers usually require food oftener than those in the ground. Spray with a long-lasting, residual spray at least monthly, oftener if pests attack. Keep the root area moist but not wet. You'll enjoy the lush, green foliage now, and specimen blooms next season.

William L. Gibson
Pres., SD Camellia Society

• Roses

THIS is the time of year to put all your knowledge of rose-growing to work. Some roses like the hot weather and others will tend to burn. Of one thing we can be certain—they will need more water. Try to see that each plant gets a minimum of 10 gallons of water per week.

There are three general rules for rose care: water every week, spray every week (the day after you water), and fertilize once a month from the first of March to September or October.

Next, we come to the problem of finding a good spray to get rid of bugs and fungi. The fungi which bother us most in this area are mildew and rust. Both are pesky and require constant care to control. The bugs to watch out for are aphis, thrips, and red spider mites. The aphis and thrips will keep the buds from opening and the red spider will defoliate your bush in a hurry. For all these, try one or all of the following: Isotox, Malathion, Chloro-Thane, and Dieldrin.

Now to attack the problem of mildew. The rose gets its food from its leaves, so to produce beautiful blooms the foliage must be protected. Try some of the newer sprays for this. Be very careful to follow directions to the letter. If the spray contains sulphur, watch the temperature—sulphur will burn the leaves in temperatures over 85°. It is a good policy to spray the leaves with water about once a month. This removes the dust that clogs the pores, and also gives the bush a clean, fresh look.

A neglected rose will live, but a rose which is taken care of properly will be a joy to you and your friends.

Charles J. Lewis, Jr.
Pres., SD Rose Society

If you live near a canyon, read this report on

Slow Burning Plants

Condensed from LASCA LEAVES, Autumn, 1959

F. T. Ching

SINCE January, 1958, an expanded research program has been in progress at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum to determine the possibilities of obtaining plants that are slow burning or somewhat more resistant to burning by brush fires than the existing native plants in the mountainous foothill regions of Southern California. Prior to 1958 there was limited research on this problem.

Various species of *Cistus* (Rock Rose) have been found to be slow burning and have received the emphasis of subsequent studies. In Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties, plots have been established to determine the ability of Cistus seeds to germinate and grow when sown directly on the ground. To date, the results have been gratifying; there has been natural germination and the seedlings are actively competing with the native vegetation.

In many localities the growth of Cistus appears to be very slow, but likewise the growth of the native vegetation is slow. In some localities no germination was noted the first year following seed sowing; however, germination was obtained the second year, as many as 50 seedlings per 25 sq. ft. having been observed.

Despite some verbal reports that Cistus is not able to grow well, if at all, in Southern California, the Angeles National Forest has been using Cistus for erosion control for many years, planting it both on road slopes and on the faces of flood control dams. In cooperation with the United States Forest Service, Cistus plots have been established in the Cajon Pass area of the San Bernardino National Forest, and, as in Angeles National Forest, Cistus is growing well despite the adverse conditions encountered, i.e., low rainfall, extremes of temperatures and a very sandy, porous soil.

Within the past two years, native and introduced plants other than Cistus have been receiving an equal amount of study. *Eriodictyon trichocalyx* and *Atriplex halimus* appear to

Grass and Brush Fires in San Diego

1955— 838
1956—1111
1957—1046
1958—1553
1959—1400

Atriplex halimus. From gallon size (foreground), the plant measures 7' x 8' x 5' after one year without irrigation other than rain. Courtesy LASCA LEAVES.

Eriodictyon trichocalyx. As many as 50 new plants surround the parent (rear center) which spreads by means of root suckers. From gallon can size (center) after one year without water other than rain. Courtesy LASCA LEAVES.

possess at least equal slow burning qualities as Cistus. In some field plots it appears that *Atriplex halimus* will produce a faster and heavier foliage growth than Cistus, while *Eriodictyon trichocalyx* spreads over a large area quickly by means of root suckers.

Since the Arboretum serves as a plant introduction center, seed and plant cuttings which are reported to be slow burning or incapable of supporting a fire have been obtained from many parts of the world. It is desirable that selected species, in addition to being slow burning, possess the following qualities: 1. Immunity to insect and disease damage. 2. Ability to compete with native plants. 3. Ability to grow under drought conditions. 4. Ability to re-seed. 5. Ability to stump sprout following a fire.

A basic procedure has been developed to determine the burning characteristics of selected species. Initially, the seeds are germinated not only to obtain plants but also to study the germination response. The seedlings are then grown in the greenhouse and transplanted to the field nursery for observing their general growth habits.

After a seedling has been planted out in the nursery and has established itself, leaf samples are collected for the burning test. Fresh and dried leaf samples are weighed to determine the moisture content; they are then burned in a muffle furnace at 1100° F. The time required for ignition is noted, special care being taken to observe whether the leaf sample bursts into flame or merely glows and blackens. These observations become the basis for selecting plants for further use.

Small sized field plots have been developed to test the ability of various plants to withstand a burn under simulated forest fire conditions with the use of a portable fire tunnel. Plots 4′ by 16′ have been established in the following areas: Topanga Canyon, Descanso Gardens, Lux Arboretum, Clear Creek, Saddle Peak, La Canada, Monrovia, and Angeles National Forest, all in Los Angeles County; and Cajon Pass and San Bernardino National Forest, in San Bernardino County.

The following species have been planted in the plots: *Cistus hirsutus, C. albidus, C. purpureus, C. ladaniferus,* and *C. laurifolius; Eriodictyon trichocalyx, Helianthemum mutabile, Baccharis pilularis* var. *typica, Calycotome villosa, Rosmarinus officinalis* var. *prostratus,* and *Atriplex halimus.*

A second purpose of these plots is to observe the ability of various species to grow under different conditions, from the seacoast to mountain and desert regions. And finally, to observe their ability to compete with native vegetation. Thus, in the Topanga Canyon plots it has been found that most plants are producing vigorous growth, with *Atriplex halimus* growing as much as six feet high in the first three months following planting. *Eriodictyon trichocalyx* has been spreading by sending up root suckers. In the San Bernardino area, with less than 7″ of rainfall, the growth of plants is much less vigorous, although when compared to the growth of native plants, it is considered satisfactory.

The ultimate goal of studies with plants selected for their slow burning qualities will be the establishment of field plots several acres in size. These will be subjected to fire under favorable forest fire conditions. If the selected plants can pass this test, it is expected that they would be planted around homes, along road shoulders, fire breaks and highways in the mountain areas, as effective controls against the start or spread of forest fires.

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A History of Balboa Park

by Robert L. Horn
Project Manager, Harland Bartholomew & Associates

Seventh Avenue and Date Street area of City Park in early 1900's, scene of first improvements. From the Historical Collection, Union Title Insurance Company.

Part III

The first definite move toward systematic Park development came in 1902. On a Sunday in the Spring of that year, **Julius Wangenheim,** prominent banker, civic leader and bibliophile, was walking with his daughter Alice through an undeveloped section in the vicinity of 7th and Ash. They encountered an Englishman who expressed surprise that no attempt had been made to capitalize on the lovely scenic and horticultural potential of the Park. The stranger's remark disturbed Wangenheim, and he promptly resolved to do something about it.

The very next day at a Chamber of Commerce board meeting, he outlined a plan to develop the Park systematically, as Golden Gate Park in San Francisco had been developed, starting in the southwest corner where the high spot now known as Marston Point could be exploited for its magnificent, and then uninterrupted, view. His suggestions included many of the improvements found there today: a stone parapet, circular driveway, bandstand and seats, all designed to attract townspeople and tourists alike.

(In earlier times, Trustee **Jose Estudillo** had thwarted a local realtor's attempts to purchase this same point. Afterward, he heard himself referred to as an "old barnacle." Not quite sure what a barnacle was, he nevertheless became so infuriated that he challenged the realtor to a duel, averted only when he decided to consult a dictionary before the appointed day. Estudillo then had to agree that the reference was not inappropriate.)

Impressed by Wangenheim's proposals, the Chamber of Commerce president appointed him chairman of a Park Improvement Committee, among whose members was George Marston. The committee raised more than $11,000 through campaigns and benefits, then began drafting plans for grading the southwest corner to restore the hill around Date Street to its original contour. Tree planting had begun when Marston, harking back to his long-cherished comprehensive plan, offered $10,000 toward hiring the best landscaping talent available. That offer prompted Wangenheim to appoint Marston chairman of a Park Plans sub-committee.

On a business trip to the East in October, Marston used his new authority to hire a landscape architect. **Samuel Parsons, Jr.,** of New York, had been superintendent of Frederick Law Olmsted's Central Park for 15 years, and was considered one of the country's leading landscape architects (along with **Warren H. Manning** and the **Olmsted** brothers). He was president of the American Society of Landscape Architects and consulting architect for the entire park system of Greater New York when Marston engaged him to prepare a comprehensive plan for San Diego's City Park.

Parsons arrived in San Diego in December for a ten-day stay. Following a tour of the city and the Park, he released this statement to the press:

> San Diego park tract is a revelation of an altogether new type of landscape to me, and my first impression is of profound regard for the distinct natural beauty of the site and the magnificent outlook. As the park is now, in its natural state, the whole effect is most impressive. Every park has its own peculiar and more or less distinct characteristics, but this great area of spreading mesas and rugged, picturesque canyons is markedly different from all other parks I have seen in Europe and America . . .
>
> View counts tremendously in the special value of this site . . . the mountains and sea enter into the whole picture even more impressively than the park itself. One of the first principles of landscape architecture is to preserve views. From the ridges of the park the landscape spreads out in . . . all directions, to all points of the compass.
>
> The setting between a vast mountain system on one hand, and the broad ocean on the other is unique. Harbor, bay, islands, sea, promontories, mountains, and

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miles of open country, each with its own unusual and distinct character, form an inseparable and vital part . . . hundreds of square miles of land and sea are thereby added to the territory of the park.

In his designs, Parsons visualized walks that crept along the brinks of canyons, and down and across the slopes. Interior roads followed winding courses, with gentle curves leading to attractive vantage points. Peripheral roads prevented the abutment of private property and buildings upon the park. Many roads in existence today are almost identical in alignment with those he designed.

Other features never materialized, or came only much later: a dominant evergreen effect, lakes and storage ponds, a nursery to encourage propagation and preservation of native shrubs, a police protection system. He discouraged flower gardens as inappropriate in the picturesque aggregation of wild hills, and strongly opposed the construction of more buildings than were legitimately needed to fulfill the original purpose of the park. He admonished those who would follow "to work always with an eye single to the conservation of the unusual beauties with which nature has so peculiarly and richly endowed this spot of earth."

Parsons later offered a prophetic warning to San Diegans, which they heeded or not according to their natures: "In the matter of public parks there are so many of the public to whom it belongs, who, being unable to comprehend for just what purpose it was made, try constantly, and with good intention, to divert it to uses altogether apart from the true and original purpose . . . that constant pressure of sane public opinion is needed to save it from them. We have tried our best . . . to preserve and accentuate natural beauties of a very unusual kind, which we trust may be kept free from interjection of all foreign, extraneous, and harmful purposes or objects."

Meanwhile, the sponsoring Chamber of Commerce committees were called upon to defend their work against criticism. There were those who objected to spending money for plans instead of plants; others wanted to proceed according to Wangenheim's original proposals; still others formed the mistaken impression that the Park was not for popular use. Yet the work progressed under the direction of Parsons' partner, **George Cook,** who overcame such difficulties as having to blast scores of holes for the first major tree-planting on July 3, 1903. The City Council had not yet passed an ordinance against cattle-grazing, which remained a problem, but a newly-hired patrolman prevented further digging of gravel, and put an end to the uprooting of shrubs for firewood and the shooting of meadowlarks and quail.

The work received loyal press support, and many individuals and organizations, such as the Board of Education, gave generous help. On Arbor Day, 1904, for instance, the Board arranged for 2500 school children to participate in a large-scale tree-planting at two points opposite Quince Street on the brink of what is now Cabrillo Canyon.

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As 1904 ended, **Mrs. M. B. Coulston,** secretary of the Chamber committees, observed that the foundations of a real park had been laid, overcoming hardpan, a shortage of money, slow growth of trees, and popular impatience. That year, the western and central boulevards had been completed, a $1700 partial water pipe system installed, and, with the arrival of winter rains, the western, southwest and southeast sectors took on a park-like aspect.

Throughout these early years, the Park Improvement Committee and Marston's sub-committee, with **Ernest K. White** and **Kate Sessions** as members, had borne the responsibility for financing, planning, and carrying out Park development, subject to approval of the Board of Public Works. In 1905, park commissioners were appointed by

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the mayor, and changes in the charter provided for an annual appropriation of not less than five nor more than eight cents on each $100 assessed valuation to be expended by the Park Commission.

The next four years saw the development of a central road to connect the Country Club on the northeast to the Golden Hill area. An athletic field was added to Russ School, and the school grounds, and those of the Children's Home, were improved. A pesthouse which had occupied one of the lower canyons was banished forever, and the would-be encroachments of five new school houses and a fire house were successfully prevented.

In 1909, the Park Commission hired a second consultant to take the place of George Cook, who had died the year before. **Wilbur David Cook, Jr.** (no relation), was a landscape architect from Los Angeles. He evidently carried on in accordance with Parsons' original proposals, though records of this period are obscure.

The City Improvements Committee of the Chamber of Commerce had meanwhile engaged **John Nolen** of Cambridge, Massachusetts, to prepare a "Report and Plans for the Improvement of San Diego." This plan, received in March, 1908, listed five major objectives: 1. A Public Plaza and Civic Center 2. A great bay front 3. Small open spaces 4. Streets and boulevards 5. A system of parks.

Nolen's proposals, considered inviolate by some and grandiose by others, contained a recommendation to connect City Park to the proposed bay front with "The Paseo," a wide, park-like promenade reminiscent of those in Spanish-American cities. A system of large parks stretching up and down the coast for 20 miles and exploiting the "almost infinite variety of scenery" was also advocated. This system connected by parkways and boulevards was to have City Park as its nucleus.

These ideas of Nolen's had an enormous influence on San Diego planning, though they were never fully out. The eyes of the world were turning toward Panama, and San Diegans shifted their thinking on harbor and park development toward plans for an international exposition which they elected to stage to celebrate the completion of the canal.

(To be continued)

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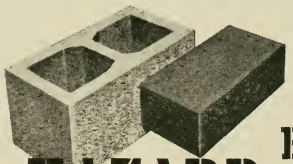

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